

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00883 180939Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
HEW-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 HA-05 CA-01 SCS-06
ICA-11 EB-08 /089 W
-----022938 180947Z /13

P R 180910Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9502
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0883

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PLEASE PASS UDORN ELECTRICALLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, LA
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FLOOD DISASTER IN LAOS

1. U.N, SOURCES IN VIENTIANE TELL US THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AN APPEAL TO THE U.N, SYSTEM FOR HELP IN COPING WITH A POSSIBLE FLOOD DISASTER IN KHAMMOUANE AND SAVANNAKHET PROVINCES IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. AS REPORTED IN VIENTIANE 870, THE CITY OF VIENTIANE WAS THREATENED BY HIGH WATER IN THE MEKONG RIVER AUGUST 14, 15, AND 16. HOWEVER, THE LOCAL DIKE SYSTEM WAS NEVER BREACHED, AND ASIDE FROM SOME INCONVENIENCE TO THOSE LIVING IN HOUSES ALONG THE BANKS OF OF THE MEKONG, NO DAMAGE WAS DONE. THE RIVER LEVEL IS NOW DROPPING.

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3. ACCORDING TO THE LAO GOVERNMENT, KHAMMOUANE AND SAVANNAKHET WERE MORE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. THERE ARE REPORTEDLY NO PROTECTING DIKES, AND EXTENSIVE RICE-PRODUCING AREAS ARE SAID TO BE UNDER WATER. UNDP/VIENTIANE TELLS US THEY WILL BE ASKING THE U.N, DISASTER RELIEF AGENCY TO SEND ONE OR TWO EXPERTS

HERE TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
AS TO WHAT KINDS AND WHAT AMOUNTS OF AID SHOULD BE
SOUGHT FROM FOREIGN DONORS.

4. OUR SOURCES REPORT THAT THE LAO OFFICIALS WITH WHOM THEY
SPOKE WERE CLEARLY RATHER EMBARRASSED TO BE MAKING AN
APPEAL FOR FLOOD AID SO SOON AFTER MAKING AN APPEAL
FOR DROUGHT AID.

5. FOR UDORN, SINCE WE ARE RESTRICTED TO VIENTIANE AND
UNABLE TO TRAVEL UPCOUNTRY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING COPIES OF ANY REPORTS YOU MIGHT BE SUBMITTING
ON FLOOD CONDITIONS ON YOUR SIDE OF THE RIVER AS WELL
AS ANYTHING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE OR PICK UP ABOUT
OUR SIDE. MANY THANKS.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: FLOODS, NATURAL DISASTERS
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Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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